WHAT'S WORSE THAN SELLING OUT? SELLING OUT AND FAILING!

SWEATSHOP

#2
JULY 03

BY
PETER BAGGE
STEPHEN DESTEFANO
AND BILL WRAY

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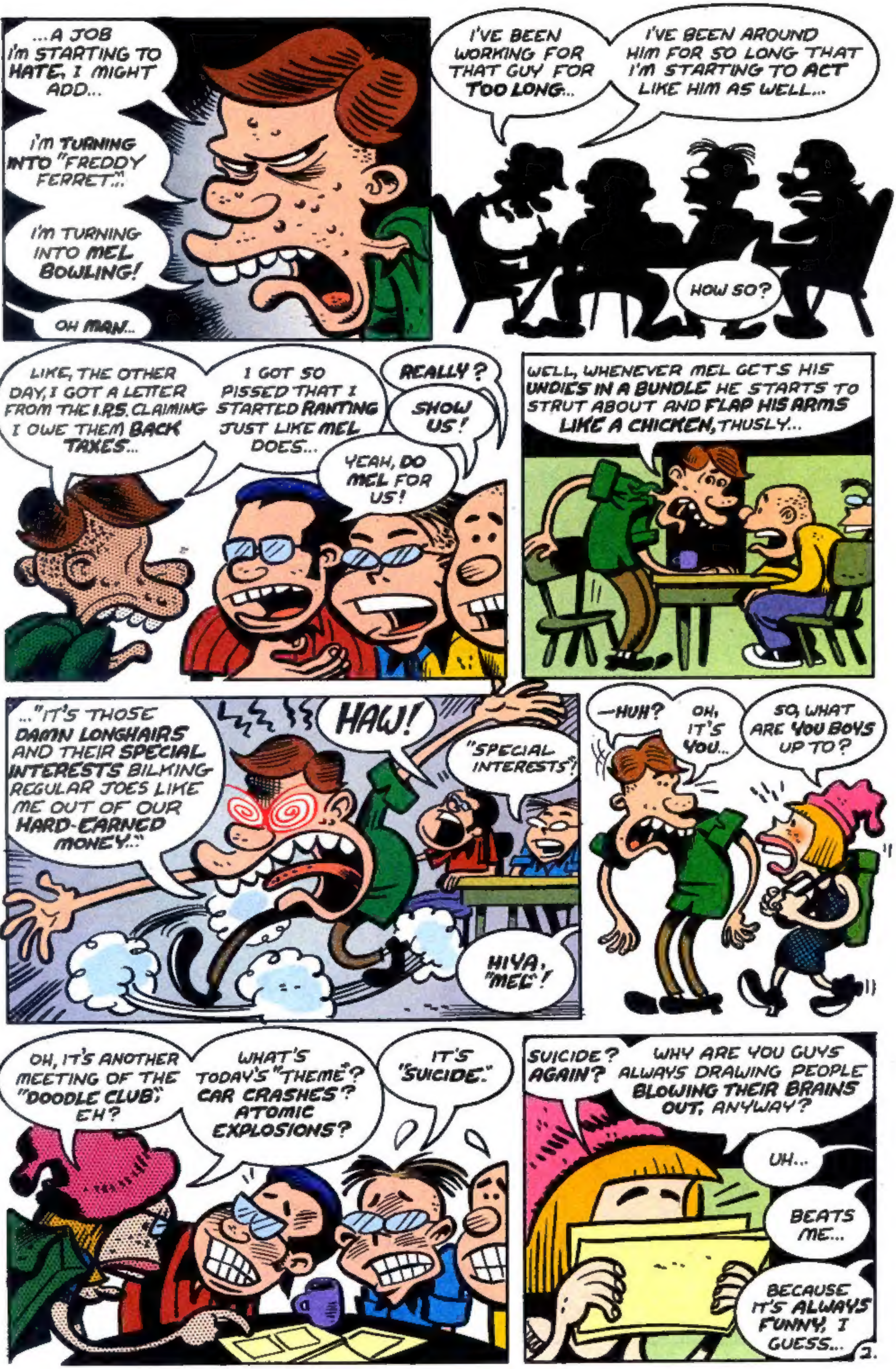
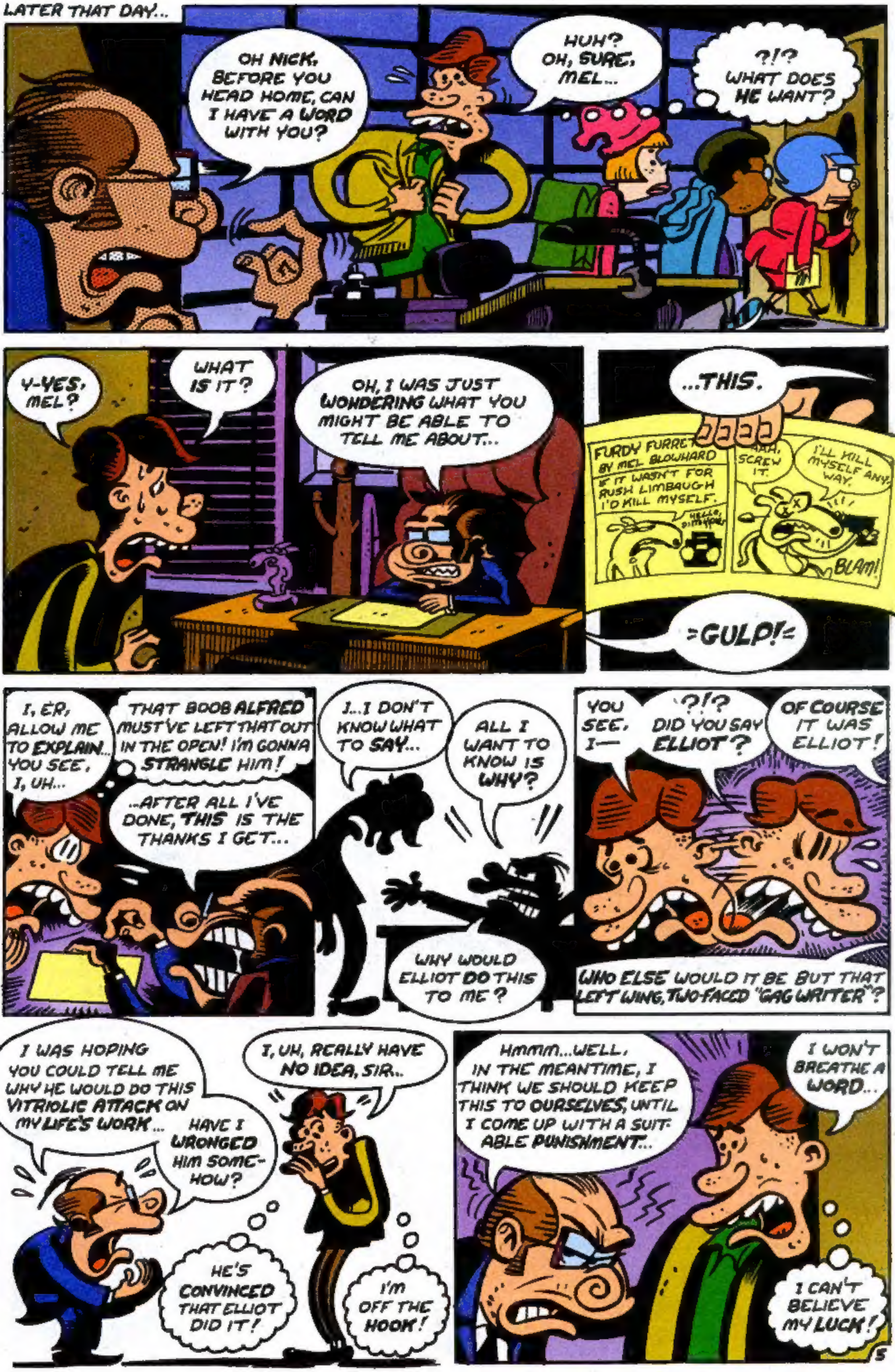
FURDY FURRET
By Mel Bowleg
I HATE MONDAYS, TUESDAYS, THURSDAY AFTERNOONS, WEEKENDS AND JANUARYS...
I ALSO HATE MY JOB, MY CUBICLE, MY COMPUTER, THIS CHAIR I'M SITTING ON, AND THE AIR THAT I'M BREATHING.
BUT MOST OF ALL I HATE TALKING ANIMALS WHO HATE EVERYTHING...
KA-BLAM!
HAW HAW!
IT'S MEL BOWLING'S CREEPIEST ASSISTANT, NICK CALIMARI, IN....
"A TRAITOR IN OUR MIDST"
MAN, IF ONLY THAT HATEFUL CHARACTER COULD KNOCK HIMSELF OFF FOR REAL...
YEAH, THAT WAY HE COULD PUT HIMSELF AND US OUT OF OUR MISERY...
IT'S UNCANNY HOW YOU'RE ABLE TO MIMIC YOUR BOSS'S STYLE, NICK...
I HAVE TO BE ABLE TO MIMIC IT! IT'S MY JOB...
SWEATSHOP CREATED BY PETER BAGGE
WRITTEN, PENCILLED+LETTERED BY PETER BAGGE • INKED BY BILL WRAY • COLORED BY JOANNE BAGGE • COLOR SEPS BY ZYLONOL • EDITED BY JOEY CAVALIERI

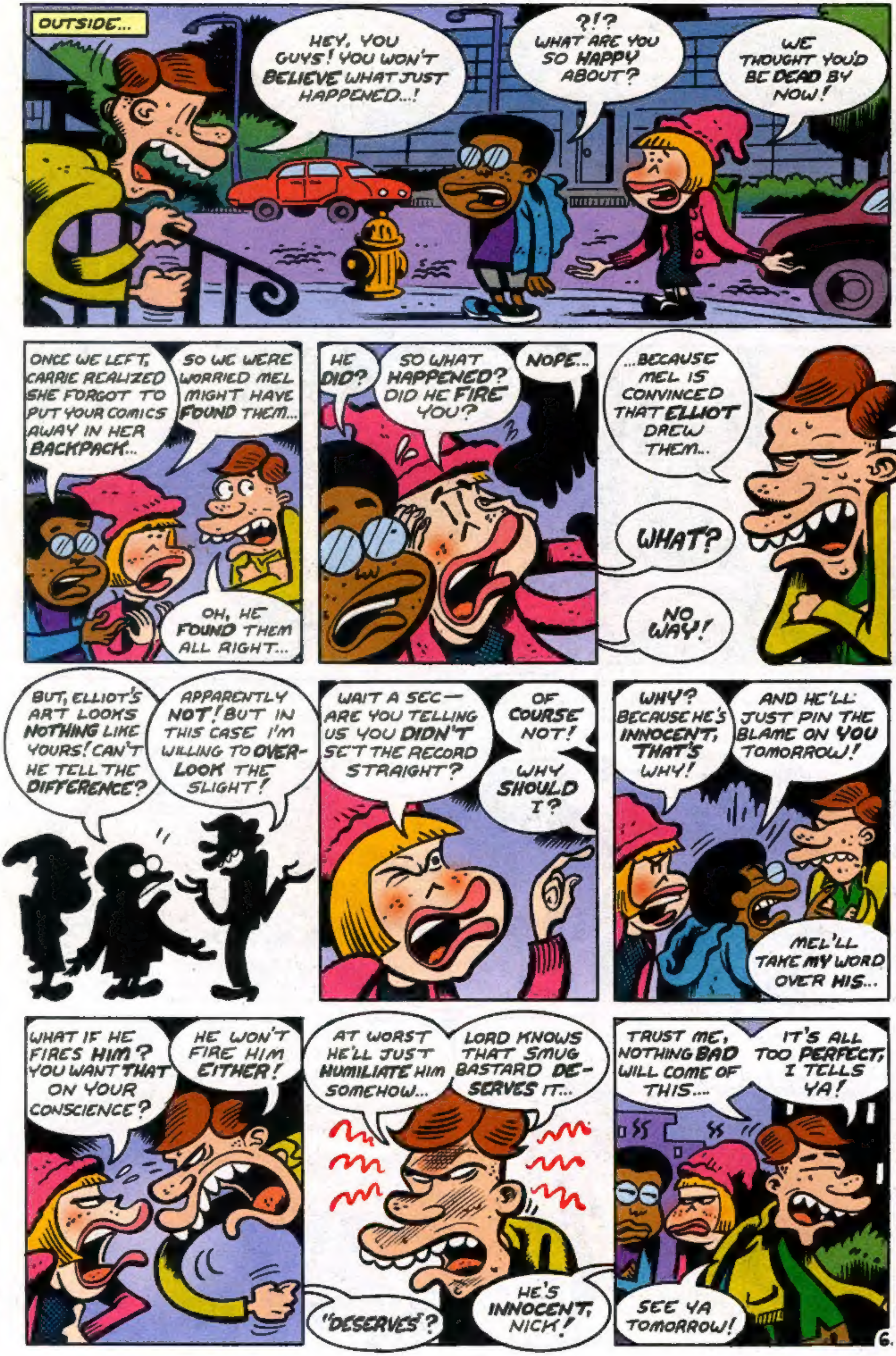

...A JOB I'M STARTING TO HATE, I MIGHT ADD...
I'M TURNING INTO "FREDDY FERRET"...
I'M TURNING INTO MEL BOWLING!
OH MAN...
I'VE BEEN WORKING FOR THAT GUY FOR TOO LONG...
I'VE BEEN AROUND HIM FOR SO LONG THAT I'M STARTING TO ACT LIKE HIM AS WELL...
HOW SO?
LIKE, THE OTHER DAY, I GOT A LETTER FROM THE I.R.S. CLAIMING I OWE THEM BACK TAXES...
I GOT SO PISSED THAT I STARTED RANTING JUST LIKE MEL DOES...
REALLY?
SHOW US!
YEAH, DO MEL FOR US!
WELL, WHENEVER MEL GETS HIS UNDIES IN A BUNDLE HE STARTS TO STRUT ABOUT AND FLAP HIS ARMS LIKE A CHICKEN, THUSLY...
..."IT'S THOSE DAMN LONGHAIRS AND THEIR SPECIAL INTERESTS BILKING REGULAR JOES LIKE ME OUT OF OUR HARD-EARNED MONEY..."
HAW!
"SPECIAL INTERESTS"!
HIYA, "MEL"!
—HUH?
OH, IT'S YOU...
SO, WHAT ARE YOU BOYS UP TO?
OH, IT'S ANOTHER MEETING OF THE "DOODLE CLUB," EH?
WHAT'S TODAY'S "THEME"? CAR CRASHES? ATOMIC EXPLOSIONS?
IT'S "SUICIDE."
SUICIDE? AGAIN?
WHY ARE YOU GUYS ALWAYS DRAWING PEOPLE BLOWING THEIR BRAINS OUT, ANYWAY?
UH...
BEATS ME...
BECAUSE IT'S ALWAYS FUNNY, I GUESS...

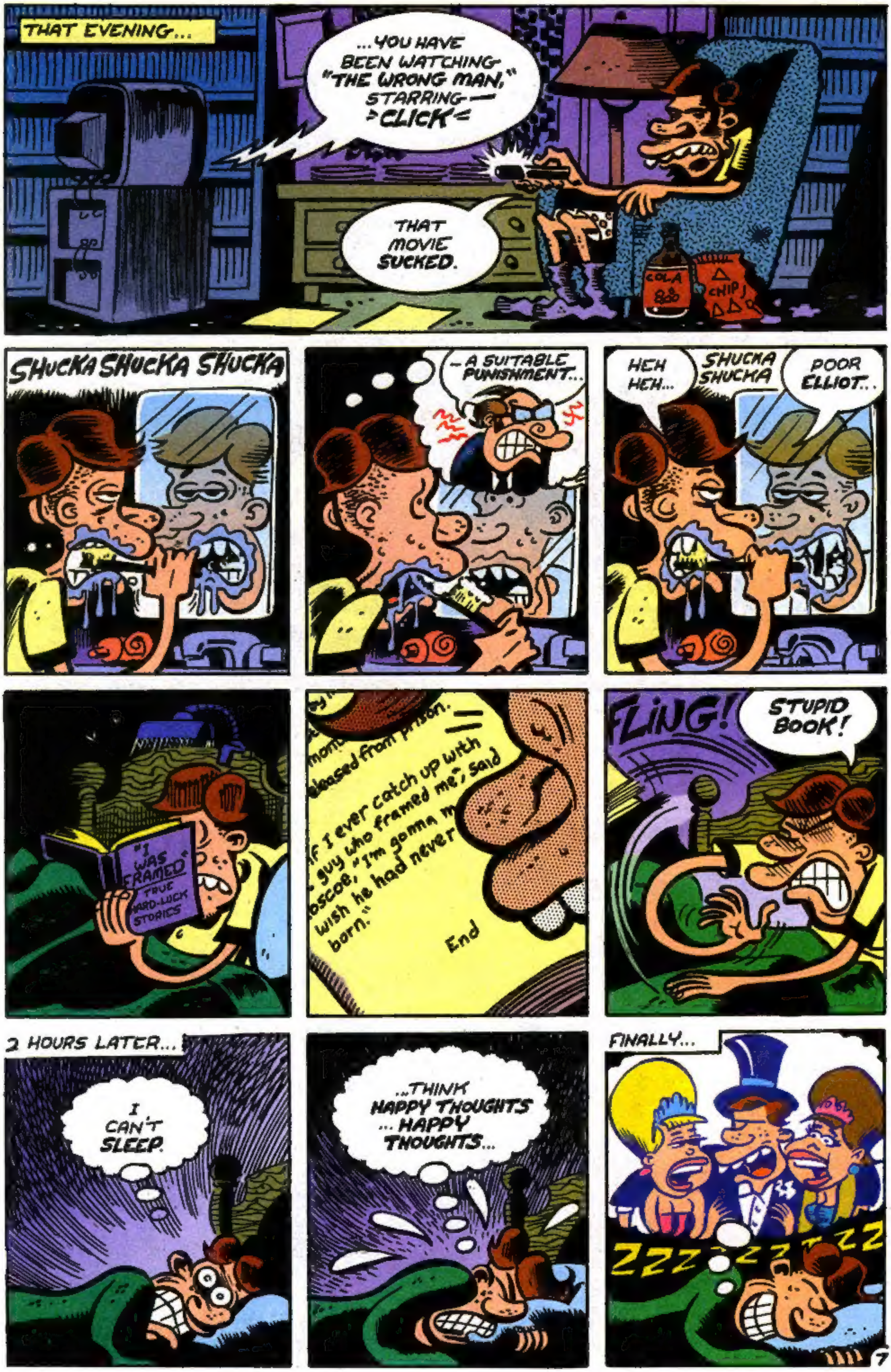
LET'S SEE WHAT NICK'S BEEN WORKING ON...
HEY! KEEP YOUR MITTS OFF OF THOSE!
AH-HA! MOCKING OUR BOSS'S WORK, EH? NAUGHTY, NAUGHTY...
I WAS JUST HAVING A LITTLE FUN, IS ALL...
GASP! WHAT'S THIS? "FREDDY FERRET JOINS AL-QAEDA"? "FREDDY FERRET ENDORSES 'DEPENDS'"?
I, UH...
WHY, THIS IS TREACHERY, NICK CALIMARI!
HEY, I'M ENTITLED TO LET OFF A LITTLE STEAM!
...TSK TSK... IMAGINE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF MEL EVER SAW THESE...
HE WON'T, IF I HAVE ANY SAY IN THE MATTER!
NOW GIVE 'EM BACK!
SNATCH!
AWW, NICK, I WAS ONLY TEASIN'!
IF FACT, CAN I BORROW THOSE FOR A WHILE?
WHY? SO YOU CAN SHOW THEM TO MEL AND GET ME FIRED?
OF COURSE NOT! I JUST WANNA MAKE COPIES OF 'EM FOR MYSELF, 'CUZ I THINK THEY'RE FUNNY!
HMPF. WELL, OKAY...
...BUT I WANT THEM BACK RIGHT AWAY! AND DON'T BRING 'EM TO WORK!
OKAY! OKAY!
SHEESH!
THANKS, NICK! SEE YOU TOMORROW!
CARRY ON, BOYS!
(I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU LET HER TAKE THEM, NICK)...
YEAH, WHAT ARE YOU, IN LOVE WITH HER OR SOMETHING? HEH-HEH...
I AM NOT!
WHAT ARE YOU, NUTS?
SHE'S A SKANK!
OKAY, OKAY! WE BELIEVE YOU!
(SOMEONE DOTH PROTEST TOO MUCH)...
3

THE NEXT DAY...
(PSST! HEY, CARRIE!)
(I MADE SOME MORE "FREDDY FERRET" SPOOFS FOR YA)...
?!? (YOU BROUGHT THEM TO WORK?)
(WHAT ARE YOU, NUTS?)
I WHIPPED THESE OUT LAST NIGHT WHILE I WAS STILL FEELIN' INSPIRED...
I WAS ON A ROLL! CHECK 'EM OUT!
WELL, IF YOU INSIST...
SAY, WHAT ARE THOSE?
NONE OF YOUR BEE'S WAX, YOU!
LEMME SEE! LEMME SEE!
TAKE IT EASY, GRABBY!
GRAB!
NIP!
GASP!
DID YOU DO THESE?
YOU'RE GONNA GET IN SO MUCH TROUBLE...
IF YOU KEEP SHOUTING I WILL!
GLOM!
GIMME THOSE!
BUT, I DIDN'T FINISH READING THEM!
TOUGH! I DON'T TRUST YOU!
I WON'T TELL! I SWEAR!
PLEASE CAN I READ THEM? PUH-LEEZE?
SIGH
OKAY...
...BUT GIVE 'EM TO CARRIE WHEN YOU'RE DONE WITH 'EM, 'CUZ I MADE THEM FOR HER, NOT YOU!
OHHH... SO YOU MADE THEM FOR "CARRIE," EH?
SHUT UP!
4.



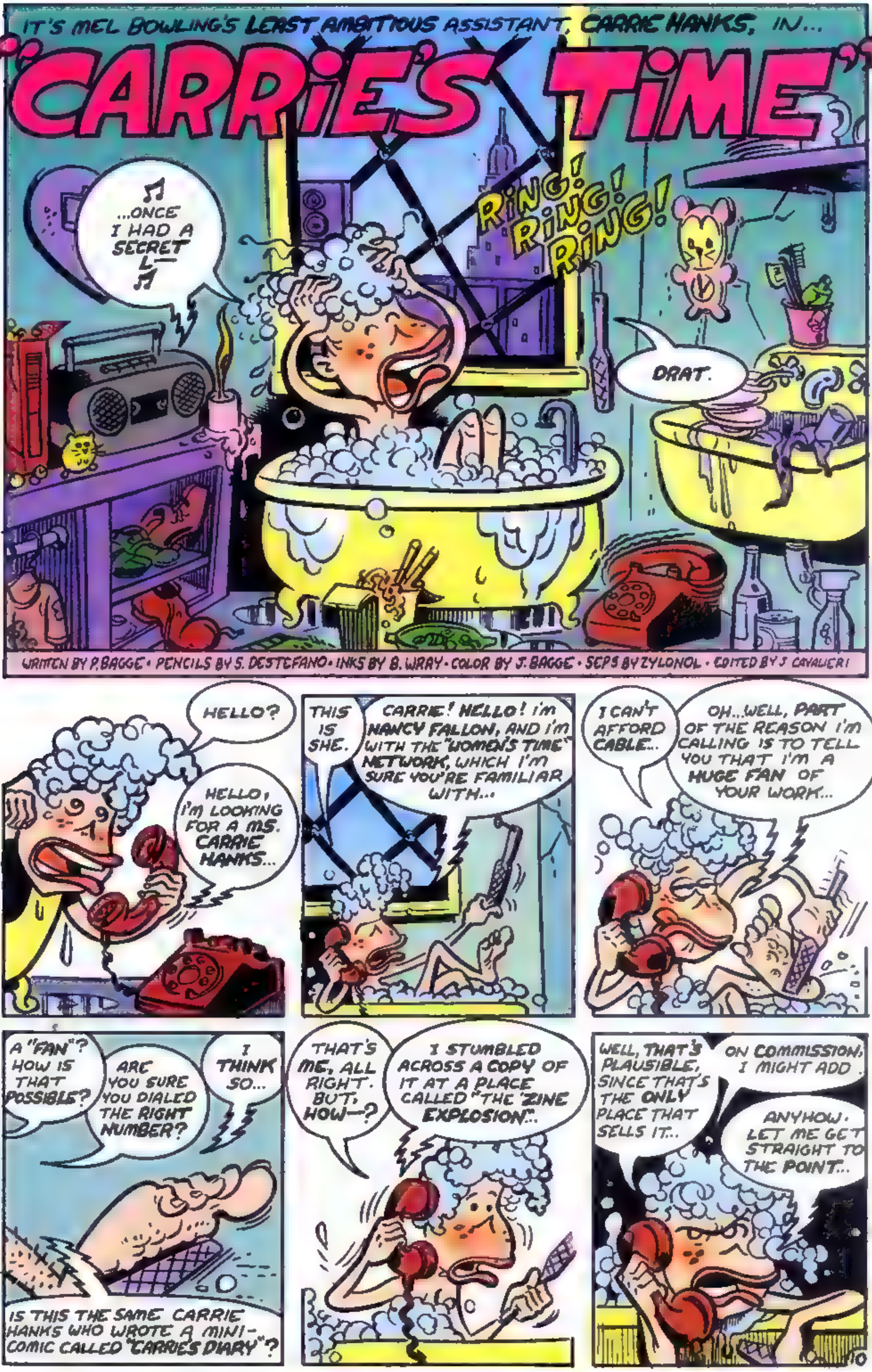
LATER THAT DAY...
OH NICK, BEFORE YOU HEAD HOME, CAN I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU?
HUH? OH, SURE, MEL...
?!? WHAT DOES HE WANT?
Y-YES, MEL?
WHAT IS IT?
OH, I WAS JUST WONDERING WHAT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO TELL ME ABOUT...
...THIS.
FURDY FURRET BY MEL BLOWHARD
IF IT WASN'T FOR RUSH LIMBAUGH I'D KILL MYSELF.
HELLO, DITTOHEADS!
AAAH, SCREW IT.
I'LL KILL MYSELF ANYWAY.
BLAM!
=GULP!=
I, ER, ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN... YOU SEE, I, UH...
THAT BOOB ALFRED MUST'VE LEFT THAT OUT IN THE OPEN! I'M GONNA STRANGLE HIM!
..AFTER ALL I'VE DONE, THIS IS THE THANKS I GET...
I...I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...
ALL I WANT TO KNOW IS WHY?
WHY WOULD ELLIOT DO THIS TO ME?
YOU SEE, I—
?!? DID YOU SAY ELLIOT?
OF COURSE IT WAS ELLIOT!
WHO ELSE WOULD IT BE BUT THAT LEFT WING, TWO-FACED "GAG WRITER"?
I WAS HOPING YOU COULD TELL ME WHY HE WOULD DO THIS VITRIOLIC ATTACK ON MY LIFE'S WORK...
HAVE I WRONGED HIM SOMEHOW?
I, UH, REALLY HAVE NO IDEA, SIR..
HE'S CONVINCED THAT ELLIOT DID IT!
I'M OFF THE HOOK!
HMMM...WELL, IN THE MEANTIME, I THINK WE SHOULD KEEP THIS TO OURSELVES, UNTIL I COME UP WITH A SUITABLE PUNISHMENT...
I WON'T BREATHE A WORD...
I CAN'T BELIEVE MY LUCK!
5

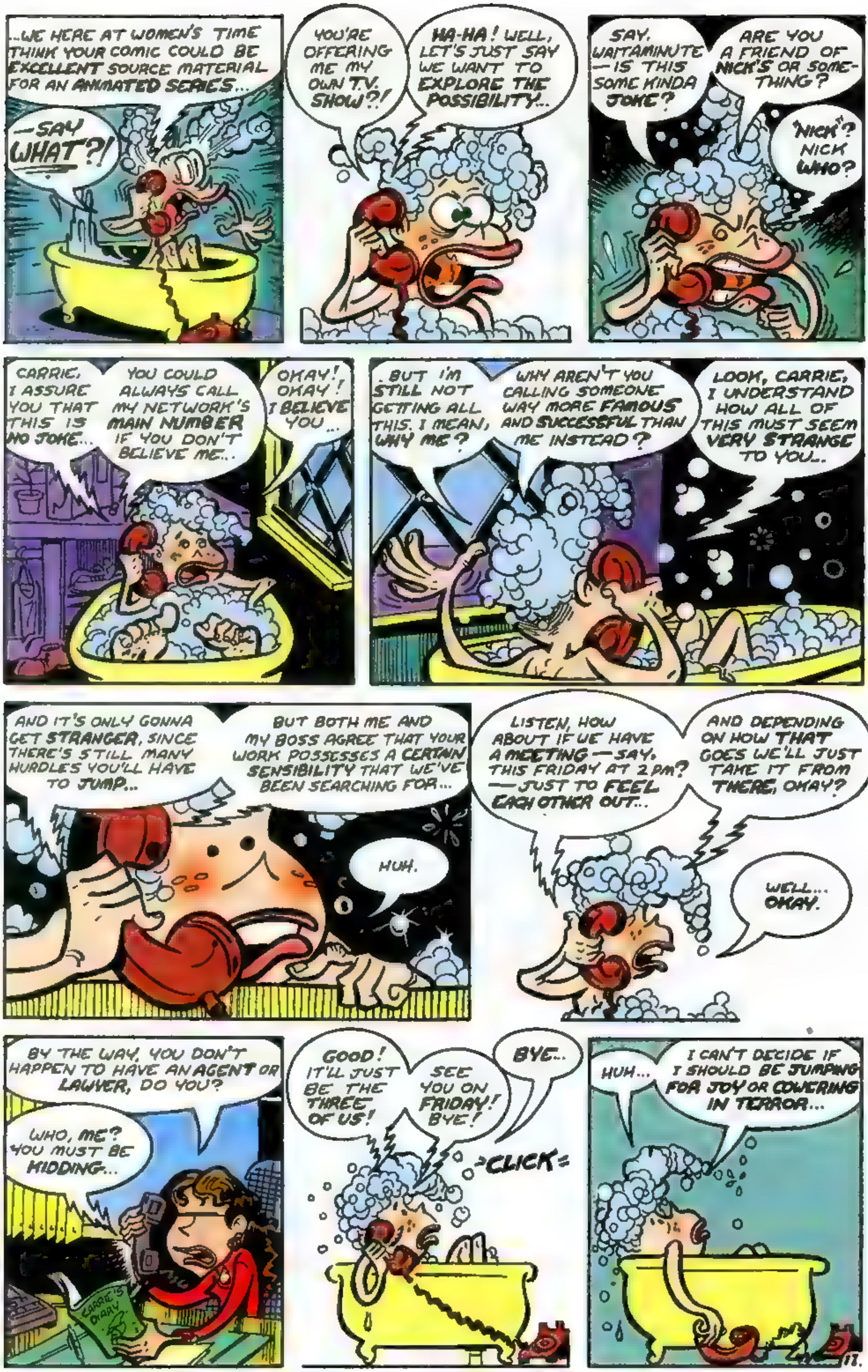

OUTSIDE...
HEY, YOU GUYS! YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHAT JUST HAPPENED...!
?!? WHAT ARE YOU SO HAPPY ABOUT?
WE THOUGHT YOU'D BE DEAD BY NOW!
ONCE WE LEFT, CARRIE REALIZED SHE FORGOT TO PUT YOUR COMICS AWAY IN HER BACKPACK...
SO WE WERE WORRIED MEL MIGHT HAVE FOUND THEM...
OH, HE FOUND THEM ALL RIGHT...
HE DID?
SO WHAT HAPPENED? DID HE FIRE YOU?
NOPE...
...BECAUSE MEL IS CONVINCED THAT ELLIOT DREW THEM...
WHAT?
NO WAY!
BUT, ELLIOT'S ART LOOKS NOTHING LIKE YOURS! CAN'T HE TELL THE DIFFERENCE?
APPARENTLY NOT! BUT IN THIS CASE I'M WILLING TO OVER-LOOK THE SLIGHT!
WAIT A SEC— ARE YOU TELLING US YOU DIDN'T SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT?
OF COURSE NOT!
WHY SHOULD I?
WHY? BECAUSE HE'S INNOCENT, THAT'S WHY!
AND HE'LL JUST PIN THE BLAME ON YOU TOMORROW!
MEL'LL TAKE MY WORD OVER HIS...
WHAT IF HE FIRES HIM? YOU WANT THAT ON YOUR CONSCIENCE?
HE WON'T FIRE HIM EITHER!
AT WORST HE'LL JUST HUMILIATE HIM SOMEHOW...
LORD KNOWS THAT SMUG BASTARD DE-SERVES IT...
"DESERVES"?
HE'S INNOCENT, NICK!
TRUST ME, NOTHING BAD WILL COME OF THIS...
IT'S ALL TOO PERFECT, I TELLS YA!
SEE YA TOMORROW!

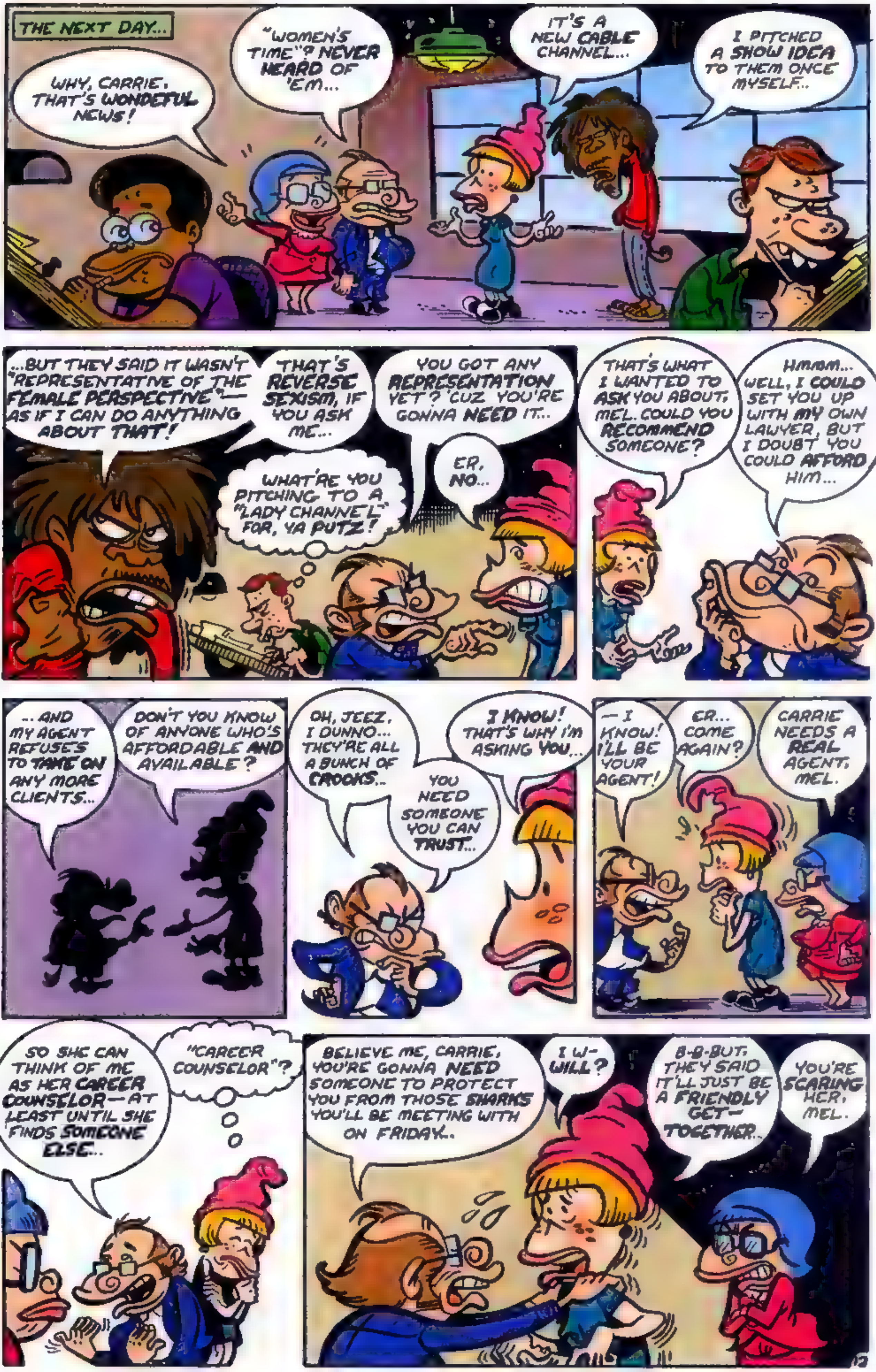

THAT EVENING...
...YOU HAVE BEEN WATCHING "THE WRONG MAN," STARRING—
>CLICK<
THAT MOVIE SUCKED.
SHUCKA SHUCKA SHUCKA
—A SUITABLE PUNISHMENT...
HEH HEH...
SHUCKA SHUCKA
POOR ELLIOT...
"I WAS FRAMED" TRUE HARD-LUCK STORIES
leased from prison.
If I ever catch up with guy who framed me," said oscoe, "I'm gonna m wish he had never born."
End
FLING!
STUPID BOOK!
2 HOURS LATER...
I CAN'T SLEEP.
...THINK HAPPY THOUGHTS ...HAPPY THOUGHTS...
FINALLY...
ZZZ ZZZZZ
7

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE WITH THE WORLD-RENOWNED CARTOONIST NICK CALIMARI!
WHERE TO, LADIES? ELAINE'S? TAVERN ON THE GREEN? TAD'S STEAK HOUSE?
YOU PICK, NICK!
HEY, THAT RHYMES!
TEE-HEE!
TSK LOOK AT THAT FILTHY BUM UP AHEAD.
DO WE HAVE TO WALK PAST HIM?
'FRAID SO, LADIES. JUST HOLD YOUR NOSES AS WE WALK BY...
...NICK... NICK CALIMARI...
?!?
NICK, DOES THAT GUY KNOW YOU?
EH, MUST BE ONE OF MY MANY FANS...
DON'T YOU REMEMBER ME, NICK?
I'M ELLIOT ANDERSON.
ELLIOT? B-BUT, HOW—
MY CURRENT STATE SHOULDN'T SURPRISE YOU, SEEING HOW YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR IT...
WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT, NICK?
I, UH...
EVER SINCE I TOOK THE FALL FOR YOUR MISDEEDS I'VE LOST ALL FAITH IN MYSELF AND HUMANITY...
L-LOOK, ELLIOT, YOU SHOULDN'T TAKE IT SO HARD! YOU'RE A BRIGHT + TALENTED GUY...
I WAS, YOU MEAN...
...BUT I DO TAKE COMFORT IN KNOWING I CAN ENJOY A SMALL TASTE OF JUSTICE...
ELLIOT, NO!
BLAM
N—
HUH? WHA?
OH.
PLOP
I SUCK.

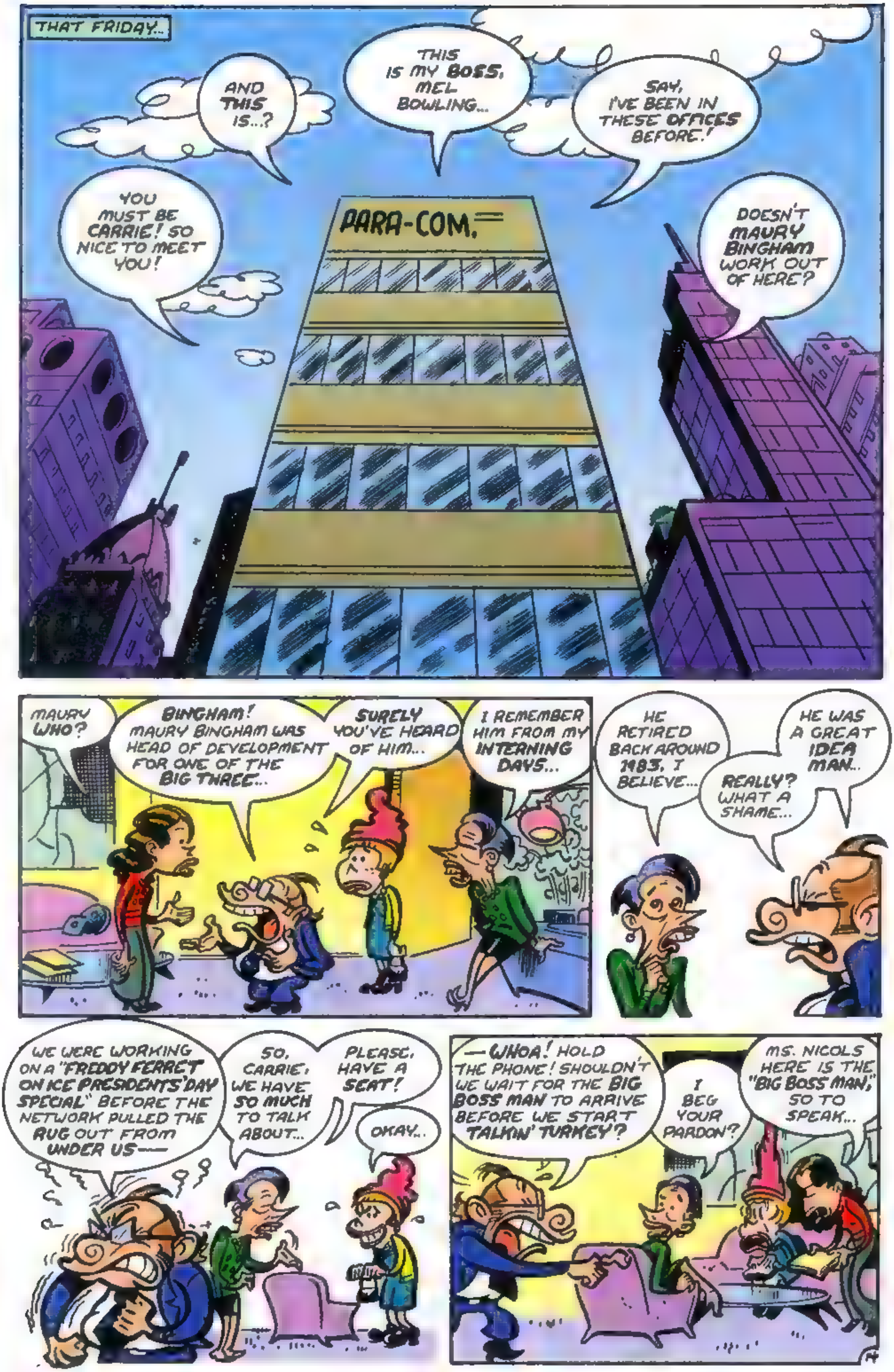
NEXT MORNING...
QUICK, WHERE'S MEL?
=HUFF= =PUFF=
?!?
HE'S IN HIS OFFICE...
...WITH ELLIOT.
OH NO! THEN I'M TOO LATE!
TOO LATE FOR WHAT? I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
GEE, MR. BOWLING...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...
CALL ME MEL! AND JUST DON'T EVER SAY I'M CHEAP...
?
...OR THAT I HAVE NO SENSE OF HUMOR!
SLAM!
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT!
MEL JUST GAVE ME A RAISE.
A RAISE? FOR WHAT?
HE ASSUMED I WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE "FREDDY" SPOOFS HE FOUND YESTERDAY...
HE WAS INSULTED AT FIRST, BUT LATER CONCLUDED THAT THEY WERE THE PRODUCT OF A BRILLIANT SATIRICAL MIND...
SO HE OFFERED ME MORE MONEY TO KEEP FROM LOSING MY "SPECIAL TALENT."
BUT I WAS THE ONE WHO MADE THOSE STRIPS!
?
I KNOW. I COULD TELL BY THE DRAWING STYLE...
YOU KNEW? BUT YOU TOOK THE CREDIT ANYWAY?
HOW COULD YOU?
HEY, YOU SHOULD'VE TAKEN THE CREDIT YESTERDAY WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE.
GRRRRR...
=CHORTLE=
END.

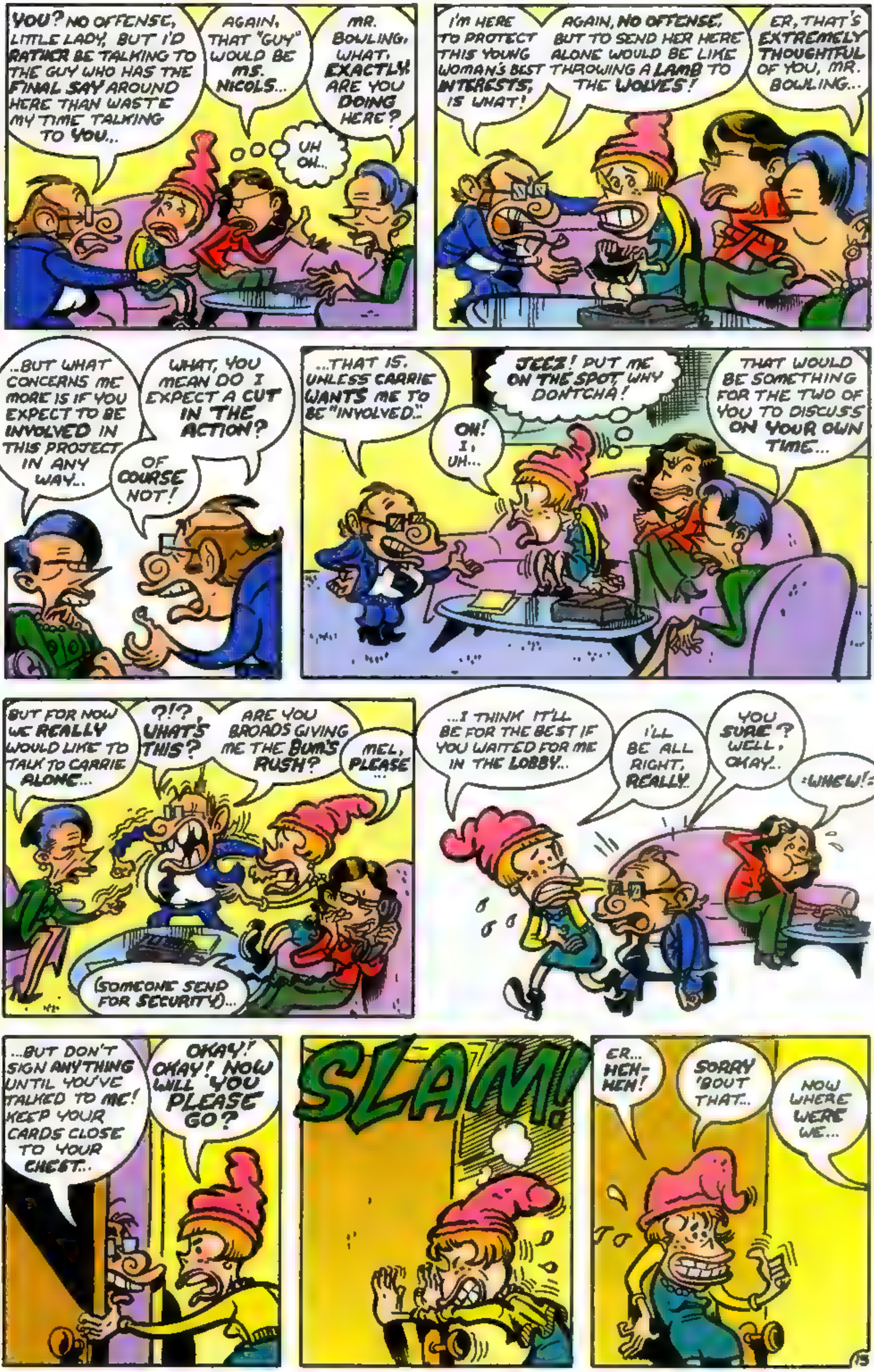

IT'S MEL BOWLING'S LEAST AMBITIOUS ASSISTANT, CARRIE HANKS, IN...
"CARRIE'S TIME"
♫ ...ONCE I HAD A SECRET L— ♫
RING! RING! RING!
DRAT.
WRITTEN BY P. BAGGE • PENCILS BY S. DESTEFANO • INKS BY B. WRAY • COLOR BY J. BAGGE • SEPS BY ZYLONOL • EDITED BY J. CAVALIERI
HELLO?
HELLO, I'M LOOKING FOR A MS. CARRIE HANKS...
THIS IS SHE.
CARRIE! HELLO! I'M NANCY FALLON, AND I'M WITH THE "WOMEN'S TIME" NETWORK, WHICH I'M SURE YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH...
I CAN'T AFFORD CABLE...
OH...WELL, PART OF THE REASON I'M CALLING IS TO TELL YOU THAT I'M A HUGE FAN OF YOUR WORK...
A "FAN"? HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?
ARE YOU SURE YOU DIALED THE RIGHT NUMBER?
I THINK SO...
IS THIS THE SAME CARRIE HANKS WHO WROTE A MINI-COMIC CALLED "CARRIE'S DIARY"?
THAT'S ME, ALL RIGHT. BUT, HOW—?
I STUMBLED ACROSS A COPY OF IT AT A PLACE CALLED "THE 'ZINE EXPLOSION"...
WELL, THAT'S PLAUSIBLE, SINCE THAT'S THE ONLY PLACE THAT SELLS IT...
ON COMMISSION, I MIGHT ADD.
ANYHOW, LET ME GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT...
10

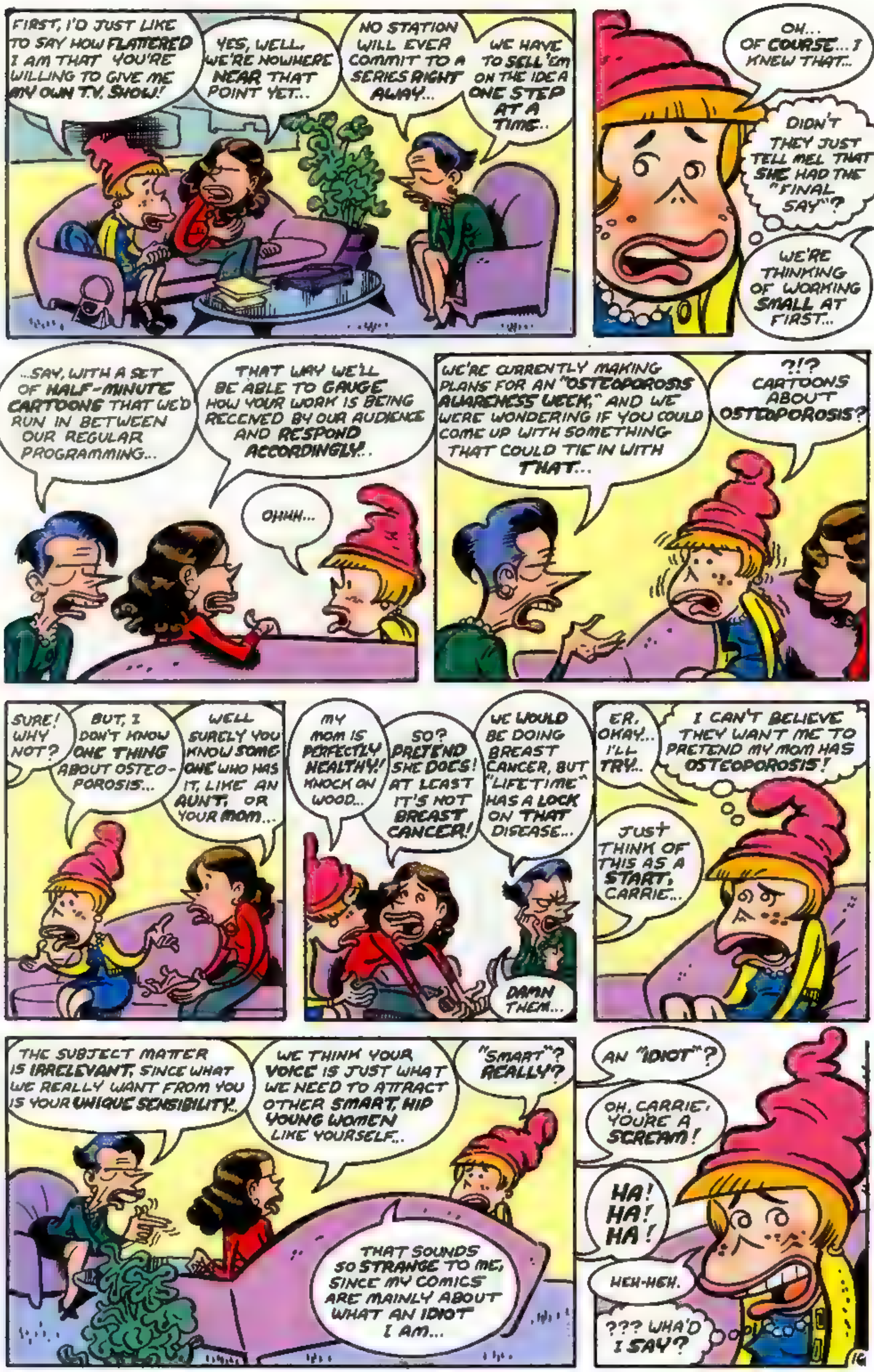

..WE HERE AT WOMEN'S TIME THINK YOUR COMIC COULD BE EXCELLENT SOURCE MATERIAL FOR AN ANIMATED SERIES...
—SAY WHAT?!
YOU'RE OFFERING ME MY OWN T.V. SHOW?!
HA-HA! WELL, LET'S JUST SAY WE WANT TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY...
SAY, WAITAMINUTE —IS THIS SOME KINDA JOKE?
ARE YOU A FRIEND OF NICK'S OR SOMETHING?
"NICK"? NICK WHO?
CARRIE, I ASSURE YOU THAT THIS IS NO JOKE...
YOU COULD ALWAYS CALL MY NETWORK'S MAIN NUMBER IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME...
OKAY! OKAY! I BELIEVE YOU...
BUT I'M STILL NOT GETTING ALL THIS. I MEAN, WHY ME?
WHY AREN'T YOU CALLING SOMEONE WAY MORE FAMOUS AND SUCCESSFUL THAN ME INSTEAD?
LOOK, CARRIE, I UNDERSTAND HOW ALL OF THIS MUST SEEM VERY STRANGE TO YOU...
AND IT'S ONLY GONNA GET STRANGER, SINCE THERE'S STILL MANY HURDLES YOU'LL HAVE TO JUMP...
BUT BOTH ME AND MY BOSS AGREE THAT YOUR WORK POSSESSES A CERTAIN SENSIBILITY THAT WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR...
HUH.
LISTEN, HOW ABOUT IF WE HAVE A MEETING — SAY, THIS FRIDAY AT 2 PM? — JUST TO FEEL EACH OTHER OUT...
AND DEPENDING ON HOW THAT GOES WE'LL JUST TAKE IT FROM THERE, OKAY?
WELL... OKAY.
BY THE WAY, YOU DON'T HAPPEN TO HAVE AN AGENT OR LAWYER, DO YOU?
WHO, ME? YOU MUST BE KIDDING...
CARRIE'S DIARY
GOOD! IT'LL JUST BE THE THREE OF US!
SEE YOU ON FRIDAY! BYE!
BYE...
=CLICK=
HUH...
I CAN'T DECIDE IF I SHOULD BE JUMPING FOR JOY OR COWERING IN TERROR...
11.

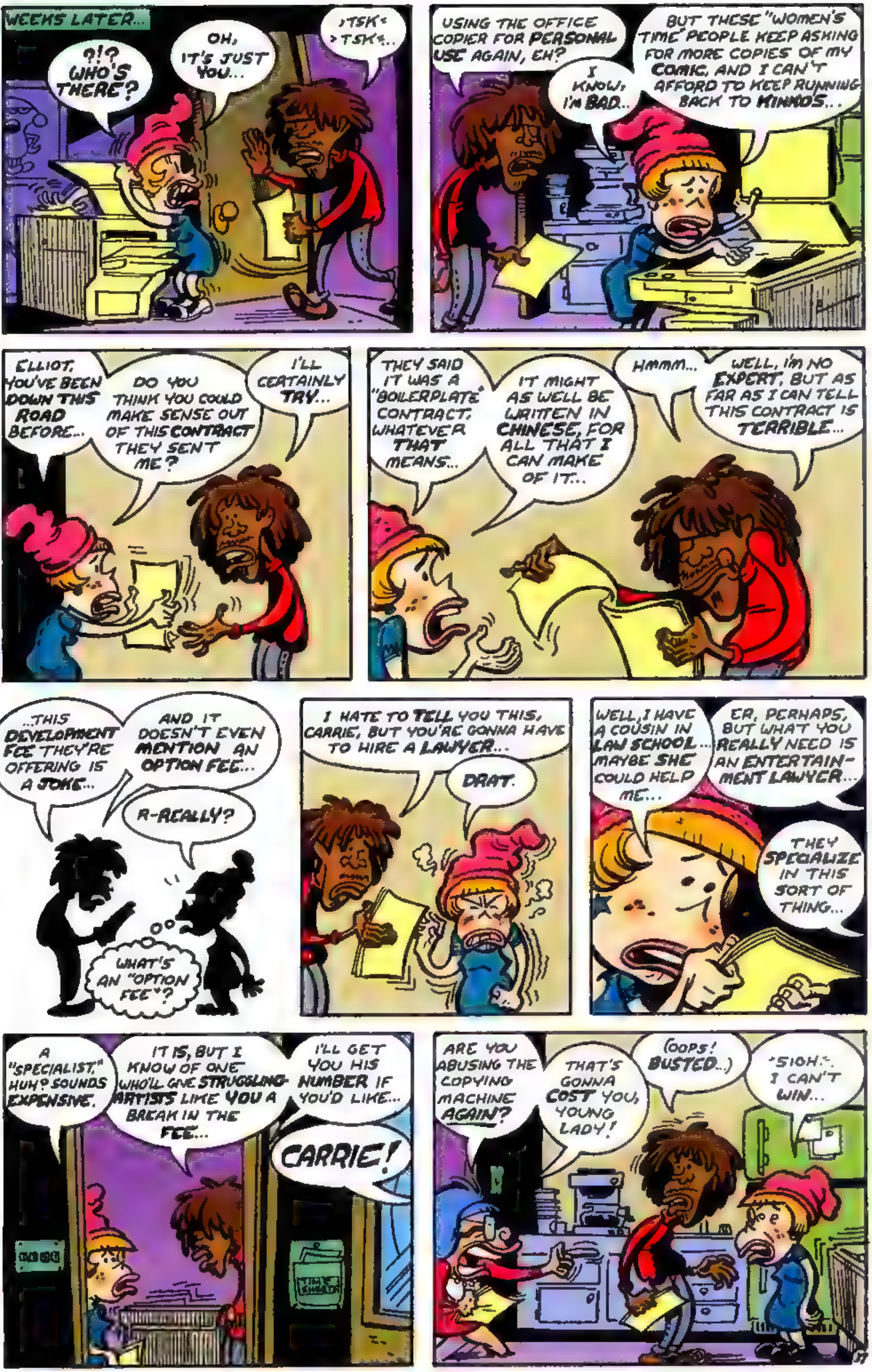

THE NEXT DAY...
WHY, CARRIE, THAT'S WONDERFUL NEWS!
"WOMEN'S TIME"? NEVER HEARD OF 'EM...
IT'S A NEW CABLE CHANNEL...
I PITCHED A SHOW IDEA TO THEM ONCE MYSELF...
...BUT THEY SAID IT WASN'T "REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEMALE PERSPECTIVE"— AS IF I CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT!
THAT'S REVERSE SEXISM, IF YOU ASK ME...
WHAT'RE YOU PITCHING TO A "LADY CHANNEL" FOR, YA PUTZ!
YOU GOT ANY REPRESENTATION YET? 'CUZ YOU'RE GONNA NEED IT...
ER, NO...
THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT, MEL. COULD YOU RECOMMEND SOMEONE?
HMMM... WELL, I COULD SET YOU UP WITH MY OWN LAWYER, BUT I DOUBT YOU COULD AFFORD HIM...
...AND MY AGENT REFUSES TO TAKE ON ANY MORE CLIENTS...
DON'T YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO'S AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE?
OH, JEEZ, I DUNNO... THEY'RE ALL A BUNCH OF CROOKS...
YOU NEED SOMEONE YOU CAN TRUST...
I KNOW! THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING YOU...
—I KNOW! I'LL BE YOUR AGENT!
ER... COME AGAIN?
CARRIE NEEDS A REAL AGENT, MEL.
SO SHE CAN THINK OF ME AS HER CAREER COUNSELOR—AT LEAST UNTIL SHE FINDS SOMEONE ELSE...
"CAREER COUNSELOR"?
BELIEVE ME, CARRIE, YOU'RE GONNA NEED SOMEONE TO PROTECT YOU FROM THOSE SHARKS YOU'LL BE MEETING WITH ON FRIDAY...
I W-WILL?
B-B-BUT, THEY SAID IT'LL JUST BE A FRIENDLY GET-TOGETHER...
YOU'RE SCARING HER, MEL.
13

HEY, THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF...
AT LEAST, NOT AS LONG AS I'M THERE TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T GET EATEN ALIVE...
SO WHADAYA SAY?
WELL... OKAY...
I GIVE UP!
GOOD! LET'S HOOK UP TOMORROW TO WORK ON OUR —I MEAN, YOUR PITCH...
TRUST ME, I'M AN OLD PRO AT THIS SORT OF THING!
IF THAT'S TRUE HOW COME YOU NEVER GOT A T.V. SHOW?
SNICKER
?!?
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
HUH? OH, NOTHING... NOTHING AT ALL...
OTHER THAN THE THOUGHT OF YOU AND MEL MAKING A "PITCH" TOGETHER, THAT IS... HEH-HEH...
"HEH-HEH" YERSELF!
I BET YOU THINK I'M WASTING MY TIME, AND THAT I'LL NEVER GET A T.V. SHOW, DON'T YOU?
HUH? WHY WOULD I THINK THAT?
I BET YOU THINK I'M NOT WORTHY...
NOT AT ALL, CARRIE!
I BET YOU'RE THINKING "WHY HER AND NOT ME..."
I AM NOT!
YOU DO, TOO! ADMIT IT!
I BET YOU HATE MY GUTS RIGHT NOW, DON'T YOU?
SIGH... LOOK, CARRIE...
...THE WAY I FIGURE IT, IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT THAT LAME CHANNEL WOULD WANT TO MAKE A LAME CARTOON SHOW OUT OF YOUR LAME COMICS!
!?
HUH...
...I KNOW I SHOULD BE INSULTED BY WHAT YOU JUST SAID, BUT TO BE HONEST I FIND IT ODDLY REASSURING.
GLAD TO BE OF HELP
13

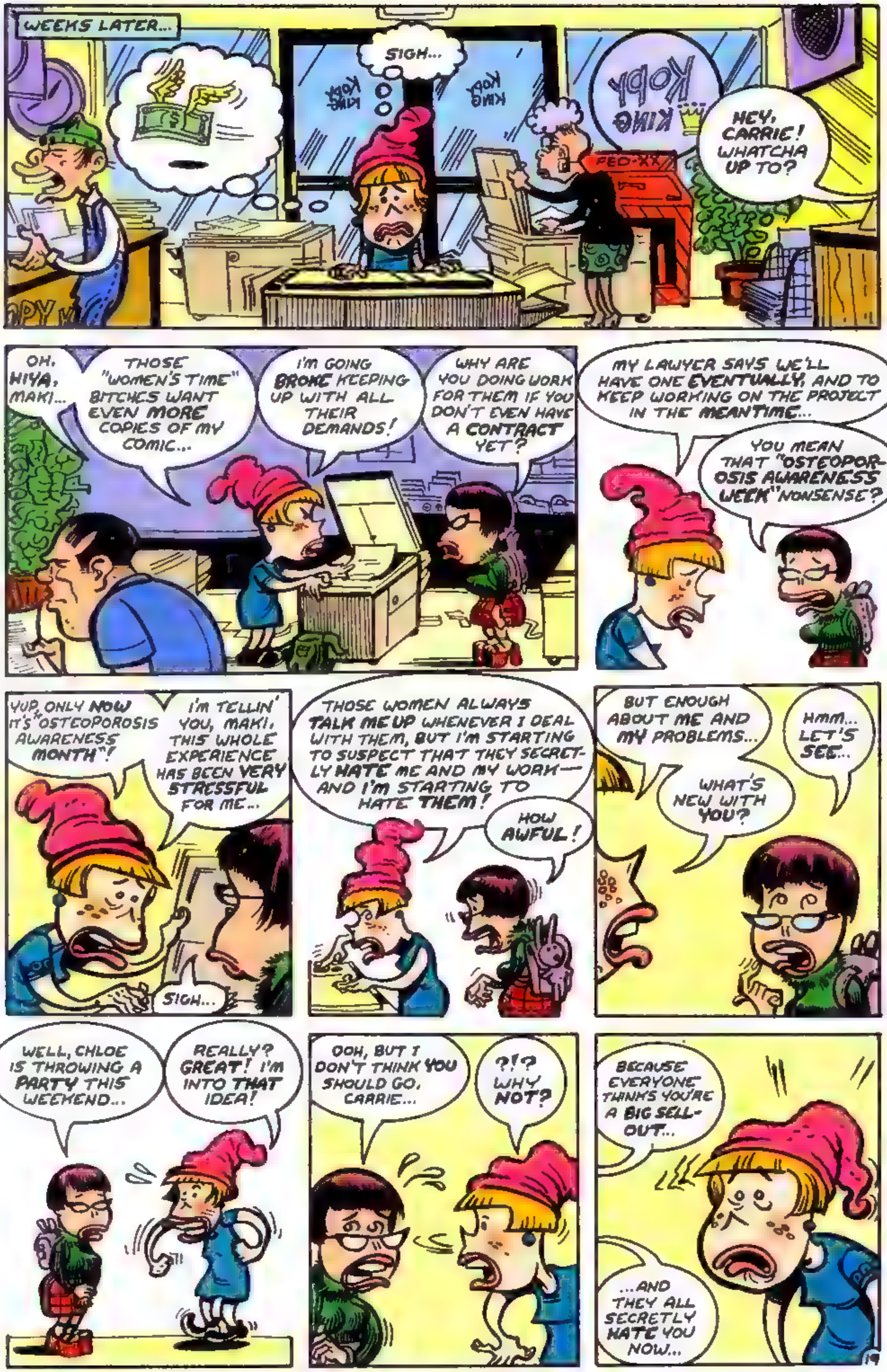

THAT FRIDAY...
YOU MUST BE CARRIE! SO NICE TO MEET YOU!
AND THIS IS...?
THIS IS MY BOSS, MEL BOWLING...
SAY, I'VE BEEN IN THESE OFFICES BEFORE!
DOESN'T MAURY BINGHAM WORK OUT OF HERE?
PARA-COM.
MAURY WHO?
BINGHAM! MAURY BINGHAM WAS HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT FOR ONE OF THE BIG THREE...
SURELY YOU'VE HEARD OF HIM...
I REMEMBER HIM FROM MY INTERNING DAYS...
HE RETIRED BACK AROUND 1983, I BELIEVE...
HE WAS A GREAT IDEA MAN...
REALLY? WHAT A SHAME...
WE WERE WORKING ON A "FREDDY FERRET ON ICE PRESIDENTS' DAY SPECIAL" BEFORE THE NETWORK PULLED THE RUG OUT FROM UNDER US——
SO, CARRIE, WE HAVE SO MUCH TO TALK ABOUT...
PLEASE, HAVE A SEAT!
OKAY...
—WHOA! HOLD THE PHONE! SHOULDN'T WE WAIT FOR THE BIG BOSS MAN TO ARRIVE BEFORE WE START TALKIN' TURKEY?
I BEG YOUR PARDON?
MS. NICOLS HERE IS THE "BIG BOSS MAN," SO TO SPEAK...

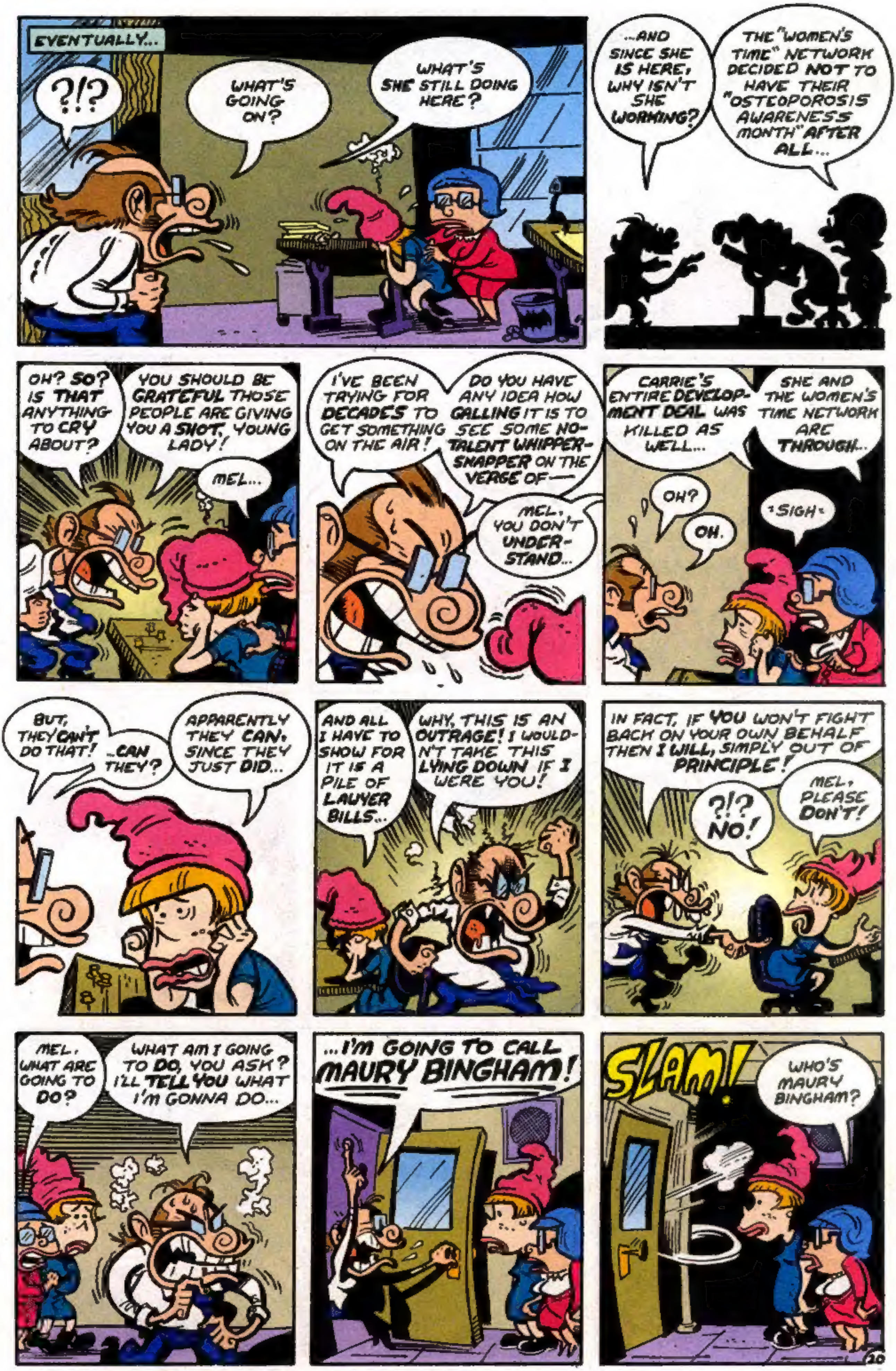

YOU? NO OFFENSE, LITTLE LADY, BUT I'D RATHER BE TALKING TO THE GUY WHO HAS THE FINAL SAY AROUND HERE THAN WASTE MY TIME TALKING TO YOU...
AGAIN, THAT "GUY" WOULD BE MS. NICOLS...
MR. BOWLING, WHAT, EXACTLY, ARE YOU DOING HERE?
UH OH...
I'M HERE TO PROTECT THIS YOUNG WOMAN'S BEST INTERESTS, IS WHAT!
AGAIN, NO OFFENSE, BUT TO SEND HER HERE ALONE WOULD BE LIKE THROWING A LAMB TO THE WOLVES!
ER, THAT'S EXTREMELY THOUGHTFUL OF YOU, MR. BOWLING...
...BUT WHAT CONCERNS ME MORE IS IF YOU EXPECT TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT IN ANY WAY...
WHAT, YOU MEAN DO I EXPECT A CUT IN THE ACTION?
OF COURSE NOT!
...THAT IS, UNLESS CARRIE WANTS ME TO BE "INVOLVED."
JEEZ! PUT ME ON THE SPOT, WHY DONTCHA!
OH! I, UH...
THAT WOULD BE SOMETHING FOR THE TWO OF YOU TO DISCUSS ON YOUR OWN TIME...
BUT FOR NOW WE REALLY WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO CARRIE ALONE...
?!?, WHAT'S THIS?
ARE YOU BROADS GIVING ME THE BUM'S RUSH?
MEL, PLEASE...
(SOMEONE SEND FOR SECURITY)...
...I THINK IT'LL BE FOR THE BEST IF YOU WAITED FOR ME IN THE LOBBY...
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT, REALLY.
YOU SURE? WELL, OKAY...
:WHEW!:
...BUT DON'T SIGN ANYTHING UNTIL YOU'VE TALKED TO ME! KEEP YOUR CARDS CLOSE TO YOUR CHEST...
OKAY! OKAY! NOW WILL YOU PLEASE GO?
SLAM!
ER... HEH-HEH!
SORRY 'BOUT THAT...
NOW WHERE WERE WE...


FIRST, I'D JUST LIKE TO SAY HOW FLATTERED I AM THAT YOU'RE WILLING TO GIVE ME MY OWN T.V. SHOW!
YES, WELL, WE'RE NOWHERE NEAR THAT POINT YET...
NO STATION WILL EVER COMMIT TO A SERIES RIGHT AWAY...
WE HAVE TO SELL 'EM ON THE IDEA ONE STEP AT A TIME...
OH... OF COURSE... I KNEW THAT...
DIDN'T THEY JUST TELL ME! THAT SHE HAD THE "FINAL SAY"?
WE'RE THINKING OF WORKING SMALL AT FIRST...
...SAY, WITH A SET OF HALF-MINUTE CARTOONS THAT WE'D RUN IN BETWEEN OUR REGULAR PROGRAMMING...
THAT WAY WE'LL BE ABLE TO GAUGE HOW YOUR WORK IS BEING RECEIVED BY OUR AUDIENCE AND RESPOND ACCORDINGLY...
OHHH...
WE'RE CURRENTLY MAKING PLANS FOR AN "OSTEOPOROSIS AWARENESS WEEK," AND WE WERE WONDERING IF YOU COULD COME UP WITH SOMETHING THAT COULD TIE IN WITH THAT...
?!? CARTOONS ABOUT OSTEOPOROSIS?
SURE! WHY NOT?
BUT, I DON'T KNOW ONE THING ABOUT OSTEO-POROSIS...
WELL SURELY YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO HAS IT, LIKE AN AUNT, OR YOUR MOM...
MY MOM IS PERFECTLY HEALTHY! KNOCK ON WOOD...
SO? PRETEND SHE DOES! AT LEAST IT'S NOT BREAST CANCER!
WE WOULD BE DOING BREAST CANCER, BUT "LIFETIME" HAS A LOCK ON THAT DISEASE...
DAMN THEM...
ER, OKAY... I'LL TRY...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY WANT ME TO PRETEND MY MOM HAS OSTEOPOROSIS!
JUST THINK OF THIS AS A START, CARRIE...
THE SUBJECT MATTER IS IRRELEVANT, SINCE WHAT WE REALLY WANT FROM YOU IS YOUR UNIQUE SENSIBILITY...
WE THINK YOUR VOICE IS JUST WHAT WE NEED TO ATTRACT OTHER SMART, HIP YOUNG WOMEN LIKE YOURSELF...
"SMART"? REALLY?
THAT SOUNDS SO STRANGE TO ME, SINCE MY COMICS ARE MAINLY ABOUT WHAT AN IDIOT I AM...
AN "IDIOT"?
OH, CARRIE, YOU'RE A SCREAM!
HA! HA! HA!
HEH-HEH.
??? WHA'D I SAY?
16


WEEKS LATER...
?!? WHO'S THERE?
OH, IT'S JUST YOU...
›TSK‹ ›TSK‹...
USING THE OFFICE COPIER FOR PERSONAL USE AGAIN, EH?
I KNOW, I'M BAD...
BUT THESE "WOMEN'S TIME" PEOPLE KEEP ASKING FOR MORE COPIES OF MY COMIC, AND I CAN'T AFFORD TO KEEP RUNNING BACK TO KINKOS...
ELLIOT, YOU'VE BEEN DOWN THIS ROAD BEFORE...
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD MAKE SENSE OUT OF THIS CONTRACT THEY SENT ME?
I'LL CERTAINLY TRY...
THEY SAID IT WAS A "BOILERPLATE" CONTRACT, WHATEVER THAT MEANS...
IT MIGHT AS WELL BE WRITTEN IN CHINESE, FOR ALL THAT I CAN MAKE OF IT...
HMMM...
WELL, I'M NO EXPERT, BUT AS FAR AS I CAN TELL THIS CONTRACT IS TERRIBLE...
...THIS DEVELOPMENT FEE THEY'RE OFFERING IS A JOKE...
AND IT DOESN'T EVEN MENTION AN OPTION FEE...
R-REALLY?
WHAT'S AN "OPTION FEE"?
I HATE TO TELL YOU THIS, CARRIE, BUT YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO HIRE A LAWYER...
DRAT.
WELL, I HAVE A COUSIN IN LAW SCHOOL... MAYBE SHE COULD HELP ME...
ER, PERHAPS, BUT WHAT YOU REALLY NEED IS AN ENTERTAINMENT LAWYER...
THEY SPECIALIZE IN THIS SORT OF THING...
A "SPECIALIST," HUH? SOUNDS EXPENSIVE.
IT IS, BUT I KNOW OF ONE WHO'LL GIVE STRUGGLING ARTISTS LIKE YOU A BREAK IN THE FEE...
I'LL GET YOU HIS NUMBER IF YOU'D LIKE...
CARRIE!
ARE YOU ABUSING THE COPYING MACHINE AGAIN?
THAT'S GONNA COST YOU, YOUNG LADY!
(OOPS! BUSTED...)
›SIGH‹. I CAN'T WIN...

LATER THAT WEEK...
...$300.00 AN HOUR?!?
FINKELSTEIN, ROSENPUTZ, GRASPEN AND SHMUCK, ESQ'S
...I-I DON'T MEAN TO QUIBBLE, BUT I THOUGHT YOU HAD A "STRUGGLING ARTIST" RATE...
THAT IS MY STRUGGLING ARTIST RATE...
AND I DEFY YOU TO FIND A LOWER RATE ANYWHERE!
OH.
HMMM... THIS OFFER IS UNACCEPTABLE, BUT FIRST OFFERS ALWAYS ARE...
CHOMP!
DON'T WORRY, ME AND JANE NICOLS GO WAY BACK...
WE'LL WORK SOMETHING OUT EVENTUALLY...
YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH MS. NICOLS?!
ISN'T THAT, LIKE, A CONFLICT OF INTEREST?!?
ONLY IF SHE WAS MY CLIENT, WHICH SHE ISN'T...
BESIDES, IN THIS BUSINESS EVERYONE KNOWS EVERYONE...
TRUST ME, THIS IS A GOOD THING...
ELLIOT SAID TO ASK FOR A $50,000 OPTION FEE
SPLOSH!
FIFTY GRAND? HA! MAYBE IF YOU WROTE A BEST SELLER YOU COULD...
YOU'LL BE LUCKY TO GET $2000 FOR A CABLE DEAL...
CHEW
SLORP!
OH...
DRAT!
OKAY, SO WHEN DO I GET MY TWO GRAND?
HOLD YOUR HORSES! WE HAVE TO STRIKE A DEAL FIRST!
AND THAT COULD TAKE UP TO SIX MONTHS!
SIX MONTHS?
...6 MONTHS TIMES $300 AN HOUR...
WHY, THAT'S $300,000!!!
HA-HA! NO, MOST OF THAT TIME IS TAKEN UP WITH WAITING FOR A RESPONSE...
THE MOST YOUR BILL WILL COME TO IS ABOUT $2000...
WHICH YOUR OPTION FEE OUGHT TO COVER.
OHHH...
MUNCH MUNCH
...TELL ME, HAVE ANY OF YOUR CLIENTS EVER JUMPED OUT OF THAT WINDOW?


WEEKS LATER...
SIGH...
KOPY KING
HEY, CARRIE! WHATCHA UP TO?
OH, HIYA, MAKI...
THOSE "WOMEN'S TIME" BITCHES WANT EVEN MORE COPIES OF MY COMIC...
I'M GOING BROKE KEEPING UP WITH ALL THEIR DEMANDS!
WHY ARE YOU DOING WORK FOR THEM IF YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A CONTRACT YET?
MY LAWYER SAYS WE'LL HAVE ONE EVENTUALLY, AND TO KEEP WORKING ON THE PROJECT IN THE MEANTIME...
YOU MEAN THAT "OSTEOPOROSIS AWARENESS WEEK" NONSENSE?
YUP, ONLY NOW IT'S "OSTEOPOROSIS AWARENESS MONTH"!
I'M TELLIN' YOU, MAKI, THIS WHOLE EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN VERY STRESSFUL FOR ME...
SIGH...
THOSE WOMEN ALWAYS TALK ME UP WHENEVER I DEAL WITH THEM, BUT I'M STARTING TO SUSPECT THAT THEY SECRETLY HATE ME AND MY WORK— AND I'M STARTING TO HATE THEM!
HOW AWFUL!
BUT ENOUGH ABOUT ME AND MY PROBLEMS...
WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?
HMM... LET'S SEE...
WELL, CHLOE IS THROWING A PARTY THIS WEEKEND...
REALLY? GREAT! I'M INTO THAT IDEA!
OOH, BUT I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD GO, CARRIE...
?!? WHY NOT?
BECAUSE EVERYONE THINKS YOU'RE A BIG SELL-OUT...
...AND THEY ALL SECRETLY HATE YOU NOW...
19


EVENTUALLY...
?!?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT'S SHE STILL DOING HERE?
...AND SINCE SHE IS HERE, WHY ISN'T SHE WORKING?
THE "WOMEN'S TIME" NETWORK DECIDED NOT TO HAVE THEIR "OSTEOPOROSIS AWARENESS MONTH" AFTER ALL...
OH? SO? IS THAT ANYTHING TO CRY ABOUT?
YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL THOSE PEOPLE ARE GIVING YOU A SHOT, YOUNG LADY!
MEL...
I'VE BEEN TRYING FOR DECADES TO GET SOMETHING ON THE AIR!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW GALLING IT IS TO SEE SOME NO-TALENT WHIPPER-SNAPPER ON THE VERGE OF—
MEL, YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND...
CARRIE'S ENTIRE DEVELOP-MENT DEAL WAS KILLED AS WELL...
SHE AND THE WOMEN'S TIME NETWORK ARE THROUGH...
OH?
OH.
SIGH
BUT, THEY CAN'T DO THAT!
...CAN THEY?
APPARENTLY THEY CAN, SINCE THEY JUST DID...
AND ALL I HAVE TO SHOW FOR IT IS A PILE OF LAWYER BILLS...
WHY, THIS IS AN OUTRAGE! I WOULDN'T TAKE THIS LYING DOWN IF I WERE YOU!
IN FACT, IF YOU WON'T FIGHT BACK ON YOUR OWN BEHALF THEN I WILL, SIMPLY OUT OF PRINCIPLE!
?!? NO!
MEL, PLEASE DON'T!
MEL, WHAT ARE GOING TO DO?
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO, YOU ASK? I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I'M GONNA DO...
...I'M GOING TO CALL MAURY BINGHAM!
SLAM!
WHO'S MAURY BINGHAM?

THE NEXT DAY...
I CAN'T BELIEVE MEL IS IN A MEETING WITH THOSE "WOMEN'S TIME" PEOPLE AS WE SPEAK...
NO KIDDING...
WHO KNEW THAT THIS BINGHAM FELLOW WAS A MAJOR STOCKHOLDER OF THEIR PARENT CORPORATION!
I REALLY WISH MEL WASN'T DOING THIS...
I JUST WANT TO PUT THIS ENTIRE EPISODE BEHIND ME...
THERE THERE...
...THOUGH I MUST CONFESS THAT NOTHING WOULD SATISFY ME MORE THAN TO SEE THOSE TWO WOMEN GET FIRED...
I'M BACK, EVERY-ONE!
WELL? WELL?
HOW DID IT GO?
IT WENT GREAT! YOU SHOULDA BEEN THERE!
OLD MAURY HAD THAT STUCK-UP NICOLS BROAD SWEATIN' BULLETS! IT WAS PRICELESS, I TELL YA!
WOW!
REALLY?
SO DOES THIS MEAN CARRIE'S DEVELOPMENT DEAL IS ALIVE AGAIN?
ER...NO.
THEY SAID THEY CAN'T AFFORD TO PRODUCE ANY KIND OF ANIMATION RIGHT NOW, DUE TO SHRINKING AD REVENUES AND ALL...
OH...
BUT YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO LEARN THAT MAURY AND I MANAGED TO SCORE AN EVEN MORE LUCRATIVE DEAL FOR YOU...
YOU DID?
DOING WHAT?
BY WORKING AS MY PRODUCTION ASSISTANT ON THE NEWLY REVIVED "FREDDY FERRET ON ICE PRESIDENTS' DAY SPECIAL"!
OH, BROTHER!
END
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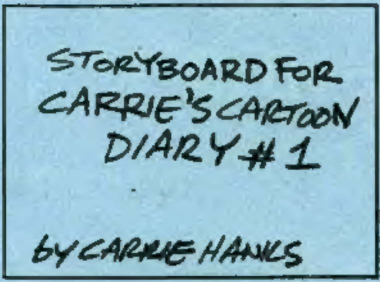
CARRIE'S CARTOON DIARY

Page 1

Sc.



Sc. 1

Sc. 2

Action / Dialog

CARRIE: "What's with the Quasimodo imitation, Mom?"
MOM: "It's no joke, Carrie. I just got back from the doctor's...

MOM "...And he told me I've got... OSTEOPOROSIS! Sob!"
CARRIE: "Oh no!" (pause)

Timing

CARRIE'S CARTOON DIARY

Page 2

Sc. 2 CONT.

Sc. 3

Sc. 4

Action / Dialog

CARRIE: "Did he, uh, happen to say if it's HEREDITARY?"
MOM: "I don't understand it -- I've always eaten right and exercised..."

MOM: "... But the doc says that isn't enough, and that I should have been taking these calcium supplements as well..."

CARRIE: "Hmmm..."

CARRIE'S CARTOON DIARY

Page 3

Sc. 5

Sc. 6

Sc. 6 CONT.

Action / Dialog

CARRIE: "I'm glad I'm not some DECREPIT OLD PERSON like YOU, Mom, so I don't have to worry about such things..."

MOM: "Oh, but it's not too early for you to start taking these supplements too, Carrie... In fact, the sooner the better!"

CARRIE: "ACK! Ugh! Can't I just eat MORE ICE CREAM instead?"

THIS SUCKS!!

PETER BAGGE, WRITER · BILL WRAY, ARTIST & LETTERER · JOANNE BAGGE, COLORIST

DC IN DEMAND

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This Month's Cover by...
PETER BAGGE

Next Month in...

Sweatshop #3

Two tales featuring everybody's favorite codependent, Millie! First, she tries to help Alfred's superhero-drawing career along in "Behold the Peerless Penciller!" Then, she devotes her life to her brother Mel in "Millie the Enabler!" Perfect reading for your group therapy!

The Hot List THIS MONTH

THE TITANS/YOUNG JUSTICE: GRADUATION DAY #1 OF 3

What fate awaits your favorite young guns when a mysterious conglomerate offers to sponsor the two teams? Will the arrival of an enigmatic cyborg girl from the future bent on destroying both teams end this Graduation Day a bit too prematurely?

JSA: ALL-STARS #1 OF 8

An all-star group of creators has cooked up one twisted tale for the JSA'ers of past and present. What sort of enemy awaits this Justice Society of America that forces each member to face a challenge alone?

ARKHAM ASYLUM: LIVING HELL #1 OF 6

Discover the dark underbelly of Gotham's notorious "House of Madness" in this 6-issue miniseries, and find out why it's never good to plead guilty by reason of insanity in Gotham's Court of Law.

HUMAN DEFENSE CORPS #1 OF 6

Q: Who defends the Earth when the JLA isn't around?
A: This 10,000 strong branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, equipped with the most cutting-edge high-tech weaponry possible. Follow a young man's two-year tour of duty with campaigns on Apokolips, the Moon, and in Hell itself!

The RE-BORN Identity

"Smallville is just the start of Superman's journey."
—*Editor Eddie Berganza*

SUPERMAN BIRTHRIGHT #1 (Summer 2003)

SUPERMAN: BIRTHRIGHT is the miniseries no "Fan of Steel" can miss. **Mark Waid** (EMPIRE, JLA) and **Leinil Yu** (HIGH ROADS) offer a fresh, exciting look as they unveil never-before-seen moments in the early life of Kal-El. What really inspired Clark Kent to put on a costume? What happened on his travels through South Africa? Why was Pa Kent against the idea of "Superman"? All of these questions, and many more, will be answered when you claim your birthright from comics shops this summer!

ANSWERING "BIRDS" CALLS

Having access to Oracle's secret passwords has its advantages. We logged in to her computer and discovered new BIRDS OF PREY personnel are joining the series with issue #56. We're talking about new writer **Gail Simone**, whose covert operations on *Deadpool* and *Agent X* made quite a mark with readers, and **Ed Benes** and **Alex Lei**, whose sexy, stylish art on SUPERGIRL drew raves everywhere. We've also intercepted some ultra-secret e-mails that suggest another heroine will join in the *hunt* this June!

MALL OF JUSTICE?

Hey, we all love the JLA, but honestly—how often do *you* call the moon for help? Fortunately, for problems more down to Earth, **Keith Giffen**, **J.M. DeMatteis** and **Kevin Maguire** rented out space in a mini-mall for "old school" favorites like Booster Gold and Blue Beetle to reunite and save the world one "Bwah-ha-ha" at a time! We dunno what this team'll call itself when their six-issue miniseries bows in July, so for now consider them FORMERLY THE JUSTICE LEAGUE!

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE KRYPTONIAN KIND

We're confirming reports that superstars **J.M. DeMatteis** (THE SPECTRE) and **Jamie Tolagson** (SUPERGIRL: WINGS) will offer a shocking new account of the DCU's most famous visitation in UFO lore. In fact, SUPERMAN: THE KANSAS SIGHTING will have everyone taken by surprise when they learn the connection between Kal-El's arrival on Earth and a young boy's alien abduction. Look for the two-issue Prestige Format to invade comics shops later this year!

To get more of DC in Demand's Inside Scoop, go to www.dccomics.com/dcindemand right now!

INDIGO GIRL

They sprawled out SUPERMAN'S METROPOLIS, put the bite in BATMAN: NOSFERATU...now we're told writers **Jean-Marc** and **Randy Lofficier** and artist **Ted McKeever** have something even darker in mind for a certain Amazon. In the third installment of their *thrillogy*, a slave named Diana discovers she's more than the main attraction within a *psycho's* palace of sin. Experience the WONDER of a WOMAN's fight for freedom in THE BLUE AMAZON this Fall!

DCCOMICS.COM GETS A BRAND-NEW FACE!

Our Internet fashion experts have been hard at work giving the DC Comics Web site a total makeover. Come see our new face paint at www.dccomics.com. Also in the works—a swanky new message board system for all of you to vent your cheers and jeers on the DCU. Chime in and let us know if we made the "best dressed" list.

– your MOLE at 1700

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